

Techniques for transferring objects between database systems. ~~As implemented in a relational database management system, the techniques employ a data transfer mechanism that operates under control of a~~ A transfer is controlled by a master table in the RDBMS that is performing the transfer operation. The master table specifies the kind of transfer operation to be performed, a set of objects to be transferred, operations to be performed on the objects as they are being transferred, and filters for selecting a subset of the objects. During execution of the transfer, the transfer mechanism maintains and updates state in the master table and thereby makes it possible for the entity that is doing the transfer to determine the current status of the transfer and to restart the transfer after it has been ~~stopped, such that queries may be made on the master table to determine the current status of the operation and such that the transfer mechanism may restart the operation after it has been stopped either at the request of a client that is performing the operation or because of an error in the transfer. The master table's persistence and the status information it contains permit the client entity that is performing the operation transfer to may detach from the operation transfer without stopping the operation transfer and later again attach to the operation transfer to determine the operation's status or to perform operations such as creating new files for the operation or changing the degree of parallelism with which the transfer operation is being performed. Another feature of the transfer mechanism is using an object's metadata to determine the most efficient way of transferring the object.~~